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Quality Educators, Quality Education

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The University of Dayton's teacher education program has ranked No. 4 among other U.S. institutions, according to a comprehensive evaluation by a national organization.

The National Council on Teacher Quality conducted the *2014 Teacher Prep Review*, awarding the "Top Ranked" status to 107 teacher preparation programs out of 1,612 evaluated.

The University of Dayton was recognized for overall performance and quality of its elementary education program, specifically early childhood education in PK-3.

"This national ranking is yet another sign of the quality of our teacher education program," said Kevin Kelly, dean of the School of Education and Health Sciences. "Our faculty deserve all the credit for this recognition because of the outstanding work they do with our P-12 school partners. Our department of teacher education contributes to the promotion of equality and social justice by preparing excellent teachers."

The *Teacher Prep Review* evaluation was based on standards of preparation for areas like elementary content, early reading, working with struggling readers and classroom management. Specific courses at the University of Dayton were assessed, including several EDT reading and mathematics courses.

Through the *Review*, the NCTQ aims to ensure a "healthy teacher pipeline."

"Currently, high-caliber teacher training programs go largely unrecognized," the council's website states. "The *Review* will showcase these programs and provide resources that schools of education can use to provide truly exceptional training. Aspiring teachers will be able to make informed choices about where to attend school to get the best training. Principals and superintendents will know where they should recruit new teachers. State leaders will be able to provide targeted support and hold programs accountable for improvement."

The University of Dayton has taken leadership in producing higher quality educators, an area that has been recognized as needing widespread improvement. In addition to this national ranking, the International Dyslexia Association accredited UD in May, recognizing it as one of just 17 schools nationally that effectively prepares teachers to assist students with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. As NCTQ raised the bar further with the *Review*, UD has risen to meet it.

"We do it, not for the ranking, but to know we are producing quality, effective teachers," said Connie Bowman, chair of the department of teacher education. "I know in my heart we're doing a great job, but to see it come across nationally only validates how we are preparing future teachers."

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